

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage wherein Aspartame is used as a sweetener and wherein an emulsifier having an HLB value of 1 to 14 or/and an emulsifier having a molecular weight of 50 to 300 is/are contained.

Claim 2 (Original): The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said emulsifier is a glycerine fatty acid ester.

Claim 3 (Original): The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said glycerine fatty acid ester is at least one selected from the group consisting of glycerine monocaprylic acid ester, glycerine monocapric acid ester and diglycerine monocapric acid ester.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A carbonated beverage which has been prepared by carbonating the raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in ~~any one of~~ Claims 1-3 Claim 1.